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LETTER DATED 16 JUNE 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALBANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to communicate to you the following:

After the request of the Albanian authorities to some States members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to participate with a military force in the protection of humanitarian activities in Albania, OSCE decided on 27 March 1997 to support the willingness of a number of countries to participate in such a force. The next day, on 28 March, I wrote to you concerning this matter asking for appropriate action from the Security Council (see S/1997/259).

The Government of Albania highly appreciated the prompt reaction of the Security Council through the adoption of its resolution 1101 (1997) of 28 March 1997 leading to the creation of the Multinational Protection Force (MPF) which started its activity in Albania, known as operation "Alba", on 15 April 1997.

Since the beginning of its activity, MPF, in accordance with its mandate, has implemented the important tasks assigned to it. It is important to point out that the Force is operating in the smoothest possible way. We are particularly happy to note that an excellent cooperation based on full mutual understanding has been established between the command of MPF, the Albanian authorities and the Albanian public, in general, which constitutes a solid basis for success in helping to alleviate and resolve the crisis.

Major improvements are noticed in the field of public order but numerous challenges still exist. The Albanian police force is still being reorganized thanks also to the welcoming foreign assistance and expertise in this aspect. They are getting stronger in combating crime. However, a serious threat still remains for public security in certain areas in the view of upcoming important events, namely the parliamentary elections, which are crucial for the future of the country. We all agree that the presence of the Force has contributed to the

normalization of the situation of the public order being impartial and neutral, and we think it necessary for this to continue.

In this context, taking into account the meeting of the Government of Albania, which agreed on the need for MPF to continue its activity in Albania for the future time-frame and considering paragraph 6 of the resolution 1101 (1997) of the United Nations Security Council which reads "... the operation will be limited to a period of three months from the adoption of the present resolution, at which time the Council will assess the situation on the basis of the reports ...", I would ask you to present to the Council the request of the Government of Albania to extend the presence of MPF in Albania for another three months. We expect that the Council will be able to decide appropriately on this matter.

May I ask your kind assistance so that the present letter may be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pellumb KULLA
Permanent Representative